

REMARKS

Please cancel Claim 10 without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 12-23 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 17 and 19 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least on page 19, lines 1-13, and page 24, lines 11-19.

112 Rejections

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 9 are amended herein to correct this deficiency.

103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 12-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. ("Hanson;" U.S. Patent No. 6,442,734) in view of Severt et al. ("Severt;" US Patent No. 5,602,750). The Applicants have reviewed these references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 12-23 is not shown or suggested by Hanson and Severt, alone or in combination.

Independent Claim 1 recites "reading a resistance value of a single pin on a cradle element that receives said portable computer system and that couples said portable computer system to a second computer system, wherein a unique resistance value is associated with each type of communication interface that can be used with said cradle element" and "identifying a type of communication interface used with said cradle element according to said resistance value read from said single pin." Claims 2 and 4-8 are dependent on Claim 1 and recite additional limitations.

Independent Claim 9 recites "a cradle element ... comprising a plurality of pins, wherein a resistance value of a single pin of said plurality of pins indicates a type of communication interface used by said cradle element;" "reading a resistance value of said single pin, wherein a unique resistance value is associated with each type of communication interface that can be used with said cradle element;" and "identifying a type of communication interface according to said resistance value read from said single pin." Independent Claim 9 also recites "a handwriting recognition pad coupled to said bus, said handwriting recognition pad comprising a first region for alphabetic characters and a second region for numeric characters" and "actuating said application in response to a first character entered in said first region of said handwriting recognition pad and a second character entered into said second region of said handwriting recognition pad." Claims 12-16 are dependent on Claim 9 and recite additional limitations.

Independent Claim 17 recites "reading at said portable computer system a resistance value of a single pin on said cradle element, wherein a unique resistance value is associated with each type of communication interface that can be used with said cradle element" and "identifying at said portable computer system a type of communication interface, wherein said type of communication interface is identified by said resistance value read from said single pin." Claims 18-23 are dependent on Claim 17 and recite additional limitations.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson does not show or suggest using a resistance value read from a single pin to determine a type of communication

interface as recited by independent Claims 1, 9 and 17. The Examiner is respectfully directed to column 6, line 58, through column 7, line 25, of Hanson. Applicants understand Hanson to show that two conductors are needed to determine the type of interface in use.

Furthermore, according to Hanson, if the signal level on both conductors is low, then additional steps are needed to determine the type of interface in use. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson does not show or suggest that a unique resistance value is associated with each type of communication interface, as recited by independent Claims 1, 9 and 17.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson does not show or suggest the claimed features discussed above in a portable computer system that has a handwriting recognition pad that has a first region for alphabetic characters and a second region for numeric characters, wherein an application selected according to the type of communication interface is actuated by entering a character into each of the first and second regions, as recited by independent Claim 9.

Applicants respectfully submit that Severt does not overcome the shortcomings of Hanson. Applicants respectfully assert that Severt, alone or in combination with Hanson, does not show or suggest using a resistance value read from a single pin to determine a type of communication interface as recited by independent Claims 1, 9 and 17. Applicants also respectfully assert that Severt, alone or in combination with Hanson, does not show or suggest a unique resistance value associated with each type of communication interface, as recited

by independent Claims 1, 9 and 17. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that Severt, alone or in combination with Hanson, does not show or suggest these claimed features in a portable computer system that has a handwriting recognition pad that has a first region for alphabetic characters and a second region for numeric characters, wherein an application selected according to the type of communication interface is actuated by entering a character into each of the first and second regions, as recited by independent Claim 9.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson and Severt, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, and that Claims 1, 9 and 17 are therefore in condition for allowance. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanson and Severt, alone or in combination, also do not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claims 2, 4-8, 12-16 and 18-23 dependent on Claims 1, 9 and 17, and that Claims 2, 4-8, 12-16 and 18-23 are in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

Conclusions

In light of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims.

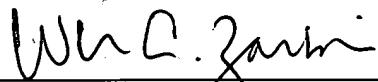
Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 12-23 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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